

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

14 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: Councillor P D Simpson, Chair

Councillors: S A Bagshaw
S J Carr
T P Brindley
E Cubley
S Easom
L Fletcher (substitute)
R I Jackson
P Lally
G Marshall
M Radulovic MBE
A W G A Stockwell

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P J Owen.

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

67. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2018 were confirmed and signed.

68. REFERENCES

68.1 HOUSING COMMITTEE

16 January 2019

House in Multiple Occupation Licence Fees

The Committee considered the proposed change to the fees charged for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licences. An internal audit of the HMO licensing process had recommended that the fee for licensing be re-assessed. It was noted that the application or renewal for a full license be increased from £475 to £560. Additionally, if the landlord was a member of a recognised landlords' association or was making an application in respect of a second or subsequent HMO the fee was to be increased from £415 to £449.

RESOLVED that the fees for HMO licence applications be approved for introduction on 1 April 2019.

68.2 LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

28 January 2019

Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

The Committee received an updated on the changes in the licensing of animal activities legislation. The legislation introduced an updated licensing system in England for activities including the sale of animals as pets, providing or arranging boarding for cats and dogs (including home dog sitting), hiring out horses, dog breeding and keeping or training animals for exhibition. The legislation gave updated powers to ensure high standards of animal welfare and provided the mechanism for local authorities to effectively recover the cost of administering the licences.

RESOLVED that the proposed fees and charges in respect of animal activities licensing be approved and thereafter be subject to the regular review in accordance with other fees and charges.

68.3 LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

23 January 2019

Hickings Lane Recreation Ground

The Committee received a report on the success in securing additional funding for work at the Hickings Lane Recreation Ground play area in Stapleford.

Following consultation on site the replacement of the out-dated multi use games area (MUGA) was identified as a high priority together with the play area. The proposed £50,000 bid to WREN was therefore increased to £93,500 to fund the replacement of this MUGA.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. A scheme costing £165,500 be included in the 2019/20 capital programme for the provision of new play and sports facilities at Hickings Lane Recreation Ground, Stapleford with funding as set out in the appendix be approved.**
- 2. An allocation of £8,550 be made in 2018/19 from revenue contingencies to meet the cost of the contributing third party payment to WREN.**

68.4 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

24 January 2019

Pay Award and Review of Allowances

The Committee considered the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel to adopt a 2% pay award for 2019/20 on allowances to be paid to members. It was proposed that no increase to members' allowances be made. On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

RECOMMENDED to Council that there be no increase in allowances for members.

68.5 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

24 January 2019

Member Allowances

The Committee considered the level of allowance to be recommended to Council. It was proposed that no change to the existing remuneration policy or remuneration levels be. On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

RECOMMENDED to Council that no changes to the existing remuneration policy be approved.

69. BUDGET PROPOSALS AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES

The Committee considered the budget proposals and associated strategies with particular reference to notional capital charges and the amounts being drawn from reserves. The following comments were amongst those made:

- Regarding the consultation, the Committee was informed that no changes had been made to the budget as a result of the submissions. It was suggested that the number of respondents was disappointing but it was not a priority to spend heavily on the consultation as it could be predicted that the number of responses would be low.
- There was concern of the number of rough sleepers across Nottinghamshire. It was stated that further resource would be designated through the committee process in relation to Universal Credit if necessary.
- The budget proposals had been signed off by the Section 151 Officer, which verified its considered nature.
- Employee savings would have to be reconsidered but it was not planned that redundancies would be made during the course of this budget.

RESOLVED that the business plans for the Council's corporate priorities and support functions, subject to amendment as a result of any budget decisions still to be taken by Council recommended by the relevant policy committees.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

1. **The Housing Revenue Account budget as submitted be approved (appendix 3).**
2. **The General Fund revenue budgets as submitted be approved (appendix 4).**
3. **The capital submissions and priorities within them be approved (appendix 5).**
4. **The Interim Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to arrange the financing of the capital programme as necessary (appendix 5).**
5. **An amount of £25,000 be provided for a General Contingency in 2019/20 (appendix 5).**
6. **The council tax requirement for 2019/20 including special expenses (but excluding local precepting requirements) be £5,475,252 (appendix 4).**
7. **An amount of £350,720 be withdrawn from the General Fund reserve in 2019/20 (appendix 4).**
8. **An amount of £264,325 be withdrawn from General Fund non-earmarked reserves in 2019/20 (appendix 4).**
9. **The Capital Strategy be approved (appendix 6)**

10. **The Minimum Revenue Provision policy as set out be approved (appendix 7).**
11. **The treasury management strategy statement be approved (appendix 7).**
12. **The investments strategy be approved (appendix 8).**
13. **The General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved (appendix 9).**

70. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 UPDATE

The Committee noted the expenditure on the 2018/19 capital programme to 31 December 2018 and the planned financing of the 2018/19 capital programme.

RESOLVED that the capital budget variations for 2018/19 as set out in appendix 3 of the report be approved.

71. BUSINESS PLANS AND FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2019/20 – 2021/22

As part of the Council's performance management framework, the delivery and financial plans for the five corporate priority areas identified within the Corporate Plan 2016-20 were brought together in one report in order for the links between service priorities, spending proposals and targets to be clear.

Members considered the proposals for business plans, detailed revenue budget estimates for 2019/20, capital programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 in respect of the Council's priority areas.

RESOLVED that the Business Plans be approved.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the following be approved:

- a) **The detailed revenue budget estimates for 2019/20 (base) including any revenue development submissions.**
- b) **The capital programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22**
- c) **The fees and charges for 2019/20.**

72. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS, THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2018/19

The Committee considered a request for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy and noted the grants awarded under delegated authority.

RESOLVED that:

1. **The request for £7,000 from Voluntary Action Broxtowe be deferred in order to obtain further information regarding the purpose of the request.**
2. **The applications be dealt with as follows:**

	£
Age Concern Eastwood	9,000
Broxtowe Women's Project	6,000
Eastwood People's Initiative	2,500
Bramcote Cricket Club	865

	£
Kimberley Institute Cricket Club	750
Phoenix Football Club	1,000
Chilwell Community Association	3,150
Stapleford Community Association	3,000
Toton Coronation Hall Community Association	7,000
Beeston Shopmobility	8,500
2 nd Beeston Sea Scouts	1,750
2 nd Kimberley Scout Group	6,500
5 th Stapleford Scout Group	4,500
Broxtowe Play Forum	5,500
Greasley Gathering, The	1,000

73. GRANT AID REQUEST FROM TROWELL PARISH COUNCIL

The Committee considered a request for capital grant funding from Trowell Parish Council towards the cost of refurbishment works to the car park at the Parish Hall on Stapleford Road in Trowell. The Parish Council had asked the Council to contribute up to £3,500 towards the quoted cost of £12,368.

RESOLVED that the request be deferred to allow for further information regarding the Parish Council's reserves.

74. APPROVAL FOR PROCUREMENT OF ELECTRICITY CONTRACT

The Council was currently using an Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) framework for the supply of electricity. This contract was due to end on 30 September 2020, however, ESPO required confirmation by 1 April 2019 of whether or not the contract was to be renewed. Before this decision could be taken, research into the market offer needed to be undertaken. As this timeframe fell with the Purdah period for the local elections in May 2019, delegation of approval was being sought.

Members requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting which provided an update on the purchase of Green Energy.

RESOLVED that the delegation of approval for a broker for electricity procurement to the Interim Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee be approved.

75. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme. It was agreed that a report on GDPR statement issued over the telephone to customers be added to the work programme in addition to a report on the purchase of Green Energy.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme, as amended, be approved.

76. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

77. IRRECOVERABLE ARREARS

RESOLVED that the arrears in excess of £1,200 on national non-domestic rates, council tax, rents, housing/council tax benefit overpayment and sundry debtors as set out in the report be written off and to note the exercise of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive's delegated authority under financial regulation 5.9 be noted.

78. REVENUES AND BENEFITS SOFTWARE

RESOLVED that the re-appointment of Civica (OpenRevenues) as the Council's software supplier of Revenues and Benefits for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, be approved.